

Waiver Application Packet



As a result of COVID-19 and the closing of school buildings, school districts must submit an application to waive 2019-2020 attendance requirements in order to receive exemption from KSA 72-3115. (1,116 attendance hours for all students and 1,086 attendance hours for high school seniors)

To apply for the waiver, you must complete and submit by April 8th the following items contained within this document:

1. Waiver Application
2. Assurances Document
3. Continuous Learning Plan Application

All required documents must be emailed as a single package to CLPlan@ksde.org by Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

Please direct questions to the following:

- Waiver Application: ddennis@ksde.org
- Plan for Continuous Learning: mmiller@ksde.org

To access Continuous Learning guidance documents and resources, visit:
<https://sites.google.com/ksde.org/kansascontinuouslearning2020/home>

Application to Waive 2019-2020 Attendance Requirements



Date 04/06/2020

School District Name Sterling Public Schools USD 376

Superintendent name Jim Goracke

Board President name: Jon Oden

1. Who closed your schools? (Check all applicable)

- County Health Department
- Secretary of Health and Environment
- Governor
- Military Base Commander

2. How many hours was your school district open during the 2019-20 school year?

875 hours

3. How many hours are you requesting be waived from school term of 1,116 hours for the 2019-20 school year?

241 hours

NOTE

A continuous learning plan must be submitted as part of this waiver request in order to receive approval.

All required documents must be emailed as a single package to CLPlan@ksde.org by Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

Assurances Document



Date 4/6/2020

School District Name Sterling Schools USD 376

This assurances document needs to be returned to KSDE with your request to waive attendance requirements and your continuous learning plan no later than Wednesday April 8, 2020, to indicate that the district will adopt a plan to ensure continuous learning for all students through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

USD 376 hereby assures the Kansas State Board of Education it will follow the requirements for a Continuous Learning Plan for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year:

1. USD 376 assures the State Board that it will develop a continuous learning plan that will meet the Kansas requirement for a waiver of the minimum requirement of 1,116 hours of school.
2. USD 376 assures the State Board that it will pay all current hourly employees during the balance of the 2019-2020 school year based on the plan developed and approved by the local Board of Education.
3. USD 376 assures the State Board that it will send the Continuous Learning Plan to the Kansas State Department of Education on or before April 8, 2020.
4. USD 376 assures the State Board that it will enroll all new students according to the state statute and the school district's enrollment policies and provide an educational plan for all new students for the duration of the 2019-2020 school year.
5. USD 376 assures the State Board that it will apply a health and safety policy limiting the opportunity for students, staff and families to be exposed to potential pathogens that could lead to illness.

President, Board of Education

Superintendent of Schools

Please print this document and sign.

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Continuous Learning Plan Application



Date 4/6/2020

School District Name Sterling Public Schools USD 376

Academic Support

Briefly describe the Professional Development plan for Continuous Learning.

We started with administrative meetings to begin planning and work with tech staff. We then had a district wide staff meeting to set expectations, give broad instructions, and reassure staff that we were going to get through this. The two buildings then held their own meetings described below.

SHS: Staff meetings are held weekly using Google Meet to discuss professional development and how we are going to provide continuous learning. Additionally, administration meets weekly to discuss how we can support our teachers and students. Individual teacher meetings are held by administration to assist teachers in developing learning activities and to monitor and discuss student progress. Our technology department is in constant communication with our staff to help assist them in getting the resources and support that they need to be able to continue to provide student instruction.

Junior High/High School: We are holding staff meetings each Monday morning and each Friday afternoon. Administrators will be sharing PD opportunities as they arise. The principal is holding one-on-one meetings on a weekly basis with all staff to ensure needs of students and staff are being met..

Please describe how you will ensure continuous learning is available for every student.

SGS: Our Pre-K students have been provided learning packets that include many hands on learning activities and crafts that provide students learning experiences that are age appropriate. Our teacher checks in with families on a weekly basis and gives feedback to parents on specific things parents can do to help enrich the learning activities for their students. Our Kindergarten students will be using Istation Math and Reading along with ABC Mouse and Star Fall. We will manage instruction utilizing the SeeSaw platform. Special Education students will be given specially designed packets to meet their IEP goals and will also have access to the technology components and resources that all students will be using such as IStation reading and math.. Teachers will also

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be using video conferencing with parents and students to check on their progress as well as offer additional instruction. In grades 1-6 teachers will be using a variety of resources to provide instruction.

SHS: We will conduct routine surveys of students, staff, and parents. We are maintaining assignments and grades as a manner of holding students accountable. Teachers are sharing names of students who are not engaging in online activities with administrators and counselors who will personally contact students and families to provide support and remove barriers..

Will online learning be used?

Yes, in most grades

If so, is tech support available for families and teachers?

Yes, first from teachers, then by tech staff. Our tech staff have created a tech help web page with videos and helpful tips as well as a ticket system that parents, students and staff can use to get help.

If so, how will you ensure that all students have adequate access to devices and internet?

We are providing devices to all k-8 students and 7-12 students that do not have their own device at home. We are arranging internet connectivity for most families. We are also are creating packets for families that do not have access or do not want their student working online.

Please describe additional measures you will take to support students with disabilities, and students served under Title Programs (ELL, Migrant, etc.).

Title I teachers are working individually and in small groups with students over the phone, with specially designed packets created to meet individual student needs, and utilizing communication technologies like Zoom and Google Meet. They are also meeting with classroom teachers to help identify students that may need additional services and interventions. Students with disabilities are still being served in a similar fashion and special education teachers are communicating directly with parents on an individual basis.

How will teachers check-in with students?

At SGS teachers will check in with students using Google Classroom and Seesaw. We will also use email and video conferencing to check in with parents and students as well.

Junior High teachers are holding daily Success meetings in Google Meet.

High School teachers are calling each Success student on a weekly basis.

Administratively, we are holding class meetings with each grade level.

Describe your plans for continued Career and Technical Education.

Students enrolled at HCTEA are being provided by online instruction per Travis Riebel, Director. Students enrolled in SJSHS courses will continue to receive instruction, albeit virtually, from their current instructors.

Do you have a plan in place to address graduation for seniors?

We have reduced credit requirements and all students will be able to complete core course requirements online. Our counselor has made sure each of our seniors will have what they need to graduate.

Social and Emotional Supports

How will you utilize counselors and social workers?

Counselors will provide social emotional resources to students and families while they are learning at home. Counselors will reach out to students and continue to provide counseling services over the phone and through video chat.

How will you support students' social-emotional needs?

Counselors will provide families with resources of how they can support their child's social emotional needs at home. This will include ways to cope with emotions such as anxiety, depression, and fear. They will also provide social-emotional lessons and activities that align with the Kansas counseling standards that students can complete at home. They will reach out to all families and schedule individual virtual counseling sessions as needed, either over the phone or through Google Meet. Counselors have also told parents to contact them if they are concerned for their child(ren) so that they can reach out to them.

How will you engage families and caregivers in supporting the social-emotional needs of their children?

Counselors will communicate with families through email, a counseling website, and a school counseling facebook page. Activities and resources will be provided for additional learning opportunities and ways to help students who are struggling at home. Counselors will continually check in with families and students to provide additional social-emotional support when needed.

Family Community Communication

How will you keep families informed?

We are sending out regular communications via text, twitter, Facebook, email, and our district mobile app. We received 100% response to our initial survey request so we feel like our communication has been effective.

How will you collect feedback from families?

We have sent out parent, student, and staff surveys to evaluate the first week and received near 100% responses. We are making adjustments to better meet student parent needs.

How will you evaluate the validity of the feedback and respond?

Our administrators are going through the data collected to answer questions and make improvements.

How will you support families and caregivers as they facilitate learning at home?

We have made sure teachers, administrators, tech staff, and other support staff are available to answer questions and offer support.

Other

How will you reflect, monitor & evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of this plan and the results?

We have conducted a "week 1" survey. We will do another survey at the end of week three to monitor our progress and continue to survey as needed.

Please describe the measures you will take in collaboration with your local county health department to protect the health and safety of students, staff and families.

I have spoken with our health department to get guidance on several topics over the past two weeks. The director has invited me to join several zoom meetings and we have good communication on changes to restrictions or recommendations.

Superintendent Signature

Date

Board of Education President Signature

Date

Please print this document and sign.

Please direct questions to the following:

Plan for Continuous Learning: mmiller@ksde.org